

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry

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Honorable Edward P. Boland
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, the Intelligence Community has for some time sought legislation to provide federal criminal penalties for violent attacks on United States intelligence personnel performing official duties, aliens admitted to permanent residence in the United States under the CIA Act of 1949 for their special contribution to the national intelligence mission, and foreign visitors temporarily in the United States under Intelligence Community auspices in furtherance of U.S. intelligence objectives. The Senate recently completed action on this legislation (S. 2552), which is currently pending in the House Judiciary Committee.

You may recall from the first session of this Congress that S. 1127, the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1982, contained intelligence personnel protection provisions which were deleted in conference at the request of the House conferees to allow the House Judiciary Committee an opportunity to give those provisions full consideration. You subsequently introduced these intelligence personnel protection provisions as H.R. 4940, the House companion to S. 2552.

The nation has a compelling interest in the physical safety of those upon whom it relies to collect and analyze intelligence on the activities, capabilities and intentions of foreign powers. Under S. 2552, the federal government will be able to employ its existing law enforcement capabilities against violent acts which interfere with the mission of the Intelligence Community. The Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime has scheduled a hearing on the legislation for 1 December, and I have written to Chairman Rodino and Subcommittee Chairman Hughes to urge that S. 2552 be handled expeditiously, to permit its final enactment in the remaining days of the current Congress. I would be very grateful if you could emphasize to Chairman Rodino and to Subcommittee Chairman Hughes the meritorious nature of this legislation.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey